

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/757,448

Examiner

Brian K Kauffman

Applicant(s)

NOGUCHI ET AL.

Art Unit

3765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 12 April 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-5,7-11,13-15 and 17-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 January 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

The examiner acknowledges that claims 2, 6, 12, and 16 have been cancelled and that claim 22 has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-10 6-7 and 16-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-11, 13-15, and 17-22 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-11, 13-15, and 17 are allowed because claims 1 and 11 specifically require that the thread drawing member has a shorter distance of movement in a case of releasing the thread from the looped state than a distance of movement in a case of wiping the thread.

Claims 7 and 17 are allowed because they specifically require the thread drawing member to have a distal end positioned higher in a case of releasing the thread from the looped state than in a case of wiping the thread.

Claim 18 is allowed because it specifically requires a control unit controlling the threader and the thread drawer, a first operation section for entering a command to operate the threader and a second operation section for entering a command to cause the thread drawer to release the thread from a looped state, a threading control program executed by a computer of the control unit so that the needle eye is threaded and comprising: a first routine of passing the threading hook through the needle eye in response to the command delivered from the first operation section; a second routine of

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pulling, through the needle eye, the threading hook on which the thread is caught, causing the threader to carry out a threading operation , and moving the threader by a predetermined distance so that the threader is stopped at a thread releasing position, a third routine of operating the thread drawer so that the thread drawing member of the thread drawer engages the looped thread extending from the needle eye by the threading hook; and a fourth routine of returning the thread drawing member of the thread drawer to a standby position and further returning the threading hook to a standby position.

Claim 19 is allowed because it specifically requires a control unit controlling the threader and the thread drawer, and a first operation section for entering a command to operate the threader, a threading control program executed by a computer of the control unit so that the needle eye is threaded and comprising: a first routine of passing the threading hook through the needle eye in response to the command delivered from the first operation section; a second routine of pulling the threading hook through the needle eye, the threading hook having been passed through the needle eye as the result of execution of the first command from the first operation section and causing the threader to carry out a threading operation and moving the threader by a predetermined distance so that the threader is stopped at a thread releasing position; a third routine of operating the thread drawer so that the thread drawing member of the thread drawer engages the looped thread extending from the needle eye by the threading hook; and a fourth routine of returning the thread drawing member of the thread drawer to a standby position and further returning the threading hook of the threading hook to a standby position.

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Claim 20 is allowed because it specifically requires a threading control recording medium on which the threading control program defined by claim 18 is recorded so as to be readable.

Claim 21 is allowed because it specifically requires a threading control recording medium on which the threading control program defined by claim 19 is recorded so as to be readable.

Claim 22 is allowed because it specifically requires that the threader passes through an eye of a needle, then engages a thread, and then withdraws from the eye of the needle such that the thread passes through the eye of the needle.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

BKIC
5/2/05


JOHN J. CALVERT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700